

# WISDOM FROM GOD'S WORD

*Joy in Jesus Christ*

Principles of Spiritual Maturity: Discernment

Philippians 1:9-11

**Truth:** Christian growth in spiritual maturity comes through properly applying God's Word in one's daily life.

- Seven principles to spiritual growth:
  - overflowing godly love,
  - growing knowledge of the things of God,
  - discernment,
  - approving what is excellent,
  - sincerity,
  - blamelessness, and
  - the fruit of righteousness.
- Joy: a deep seated and profound peace, comfort, stability, and assurance.
- Discernment: a mature insight and understanding of the knowledge God gives us.

“Without knowledge, application is dangerous, and without application, knowledge is useless.”

"Biblical knowledge without application leads to self-deception."  
..... Garrett Higbee

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- Three words translated ‘discern’ or ‘discernment’.
  - *diakrisis* - the spiritual gift of discerning spirits, good and evil (1 Corinthians 12:10; Hebrews 5:13-14).
  - *semeion* - to distinguish between what is genuine and what is not genuine (2 Thessalonians 3:17).
  - *aisthesis* - to have a mature insight and understanding.

1. Paul grieved over Israel's knowledge without discernment.

- Romans 10:1-3.

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2. Paul's concern was that the Philippians would press on to a full knowledge of the deeper things of God ***and*** that they would apply this knowledge to life.

- Psalm 119:73-75.

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3. How do we develop spiritual discernment?

- 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.

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